

# Old World News Flashed by Cable to The Times-Dispatch

## GENERAL AGAIN ON FAVORITE QUEST

Epiridovitch Has Renewed Hunt for Rich American Widow.

### MRS. LARSEN HIS QUARRY

She Is Engaged, but That Does Not Daunt the Russian.

BY J. M. E. D'AQUIN.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] Paris, June 18.—The gallant general Tcherof Spiridovitch has come to the front again in his favorite and perennial comedy, "The Quest of the American Widow."

The general, who is said to be the most decorated man in Europe, for the past few years has persistently pursued all the rich widows to be found in the matrimonial market. When he heard that Mrs. Margaret Larsen, of his kind, might be had, he hastened from St. Petersburg to enter the lists, although informed that she was reported as already engaged to A. L. Elwig, a young engineer.

"That makes no difference to me," said the general, "engagements are made to be broken."

Mrs. Larsen is said to have \$3,000,000 in her own right. She is the widow of Peter Larsen, of Helena, Montana, who made a colossal fortune in the Montana mines.

It will be remembered that the general last laid siege to the heart of Mrs. William Hayes Chapman. Now he is hunting for Mrs. Elwig, who is said to be a fortune of \$1,000,000. He is a good detective, being, it is said, in the secret service of the Russian government, so he easily found an old love affair of his, which he had conveyed to the fair widow's ears.

It is also in the general's favor that Elwig was called to New York last week on business, so Spiridovitch is losing any time. Indeed, he thinks he holds all the trump cards in his hands. Mrs. Larsen lives in the Hotel Neuville, overlooking the Tuilleries, where Thackeray once stopped, and the general has taken his quarters at the Continental, nearby.

### Miss Elton's Shattered Romance.

The divorce court of Paris has just annulled the marriage of the charming Mrs. Elton, formerly Miss Vera Bertha Elton, of San Francisco, who is noted for her beauty, vivacity and many accomplishments. She spent four years in a finishing school in Paris prior to her marriage, during which period she was wooed and won by M. Fougner, then city editor of the Courrier des Etats Unis.

He happened to be taking a holiday in Paris when he met a young girl student. It was a case of love at first sight. The engagement was approved by the mother, Mrs. Florence Elton, then a wealthy widow from the Pacific coast, but who lost nearly everything by the earthquake. This misfortune, however, made no difference to the ardent editor, who married the girl of his choice, notwithstanding the loss of her dowry.

And now the pretty girl is brought to an abrupt end by a decree of divorce, though only four years ago everything pointed to a long and happy life together. The unhappy wife has taken up her abode with her mother in Paris, while the husband is adrift. He declares it is a case of too much mother-in-law.

A debut which proved of great interest in the musical circles of Paris

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## GERMANY AROUSED AGAINST VATICAN

Country Wild With Protest Over Pope's Recent Encyclical.

### PROTESTANTS ARE ABLAZE

Political Situation Throughout Europe Is Strangely Topsy-turvy.

BY WILLIAM T. STEAD.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] Munich, June 18.—The political situation in Europe is strangely topsy-turvy. Every one seems to be playing his opponent's game.

In Egypt the extreme Nationalists by their violence have weakened the British Liberals in their effort to resist the reactionary and arbitrary counsels of Mr. Roosevelt. In Russia the efforts of outsiders to help Finland precipitated the hurried passage of a bill asserting Russian predominance. In England the Lords have played into the hands of the radicals by rejecting the budget.

But the most striking instance of all is supplied by the action of the Pope and his reaction on German politics. Germany to-day is humming from end to end with protests against the Pope's encyclical on Charles Borromeo on account of its naive statement of the conventional Catholic view of the reformation.

The Liberals are in ecstasies over this unexpected bolt from the blue in their favor. Of late Catholic conservatism had seemed as if it were certain to achieve a great victory at the next election. In Germany the Catholics have made much headway, thanks largely to the zeal and intelligence with which their bishops and priests have helped the cause of social reform. They are the group in the Reichstag, and their growing ascendancy was watched with unconcealed alarm by the Liberals of all shades.

The Situation Changed. But the Pope's encyclical has revolutionized the situation. Plus in his Charles Borromeo encyclical deemed it wise and prudent to heighten the tribute paid to the saint by contrasting his work with that of the Protestant reformers, who were doing the work of the devil.

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## GRAND TRIANON BEING RESTORED

Marquise de Ganay, American Woman, Is Responsible for the Work.

### PARIS DRINKING TEA

Young Bachelors Are Elbowing Women Out of Their Domain.

BY MARQUIS DE CASTELLANE.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] Paris, June 18.—I hear that the Marquise de Ganay, formerly Miss Ridge-way, of Philadelphia, has been instrumental in having the Grand Trianon of Versailles restored to its original splendor. The Marquise is president of a society called "The Friends of Versailles," and has called the attention of the government to the necessity of saving and restoring this gem of architecture.

The Marquise is the second daughter of the Marquis de Ganay, governor of the former royal domain of Versailles. The Grand Trianon was built by Louis XIV. for Madame de Maintenon, widow of the great Seignior. The palace fell into disuse and was somewhat dismantled by Louis Philippe, the "Citizen King." Now a Republican government, at the instigation of a daughter of the American republic, is about to repair the vandalism of an Orleansist King.

The Marquise de Ganay is as much interested in our national monuments as though she were born and raised a Frenchwoman. France would be poor indeed were it not for the infusion of American blood and American dollars.

Patroness of Opera. Take, for instance, the fact that American women residing in Paris are the very best patronesses of our Italian opera. The season at the Metropolitan will be the "Arian of the Blue" of Paul Dukas, with Puccini, Toscanini and Gatti Casazza I attended the last performance for the present at the Opera Comique of this fascinating and poetic work. Toscanini and Gatti-Casazza were delighted with the opera. Puccini, on the other hand, seemed far from charmed.

Personally, I have little doubt "Arian" will be a success in America, thanks not least to the music, which, though sometimes imitative, is always beautiful, and to the subject which it illustrates. In effect the libretto, which, of course, is borrowed from Moliere, is a masterpiece of the New Woman symbolized in the heroine and contrasted with the timid and submissive woman of the Victorian era. The Dukas score is a connecting link between Wagner and Debussy.

After a brief stay in Paris, Charpentier has gone back to Monte Carlo. His friends assure me he is very ill indeed, and will be unable to compose or even complete the works which are now in his hands.

Lucie, Bori, alias Borgia, the young soprano who sings Manon here, is engaged for the next season, but one by the Metropolitan management. Madame Bori, the Manhattan Herodias and Ammonites, has been engaged at a large salary to sing "Carmen" next autumn in Florence.

I saw Mrs. William B. Leeds, Mrs. Frederick Bell, and Mrs. Pete Larsen, the miner's widow, who is said to be worth \$3,000,000.

Paris Takes to Tea Drinking. Our fashionable men folk have broken new ground in the domain of entertaining this year. They have taken to "tea lights."

Every afternoon from 5 to 7 o'clock one is free to visit the apartments of the Duke of Devonshire.

The whole of Protestant Germany is in a blaze, and the Liberal party, through its press, most diligently fans the fire. The Clerical organs are cowed and the apostrophe paragraphs from dispatches just published describing the communications which passed between the Pope and the Prussian government afford intense satisfaction to the Liberals and corresponding chagrin to the Clericals.

Big Stick for the Vatican. The Prussian minister appears to have addressed the Vatican in the Big Stick style of Roosevelt.

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